

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1 1. A method of managing a data system designed to ensure the integrity of data and a
2 file system designed to manage files, comprising the steps of:
 - 3 (a) ensuring data from an external sources is received by the data system;
 - 4 (b) ensuring the data is copied from the data system to the file system; and
 - 5 (c) interpreting metadata to ensure data integrity is maintained during the copying
6 of data from the data system to the file system.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the data system that is designed to ensure the integrity
2 of the data is a relational database following ACID protocols.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the metadata is stored in the relational database.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the data is performed through a
2 communications device from an external source.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 - 2 (d) directing a request to retrieve the data to:
3 the data system when the request is made prior to when the metadata indicates
4 that the step of copying the data to the file system has been completed;
5 or
6 the file system after the metadata indicates that the step of copying the data to
7 the file system has been completed.

1 14. A method for storing data, comprising the steps of:

- 2 (a) initially receiving the data into a data system that is designed to ensure the
3 integrity of the data;
- 4 (b) copying the data from the data system to a file system, designed to manage
5 files, using protocols that ensure the integrity of data during the copying; and
- 6 (c) creating metadata that can be used to ensure the integrity of the data and
7 describe and track the state and location of the data.

1 15. A method of transferring data between a first system and a second system while
2 ensuring the integrity of the data, comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) using metadata to determine when the data transfer is in progress;
- 4 (b) using metadata to determine when the data transfer has been successfully
- 5 completed; and
- 6 (c) using the metadata to indicate when rollback procedures can be initiated from
- 7 a backup.

1 16. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of directing a request to access
2 the data to the second system when the metadata indicates that a data transfer has been
3 successfully completed.

- 1 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of directing a request to access
- 2 the data to the first system when the metadata does not indicate that a data transfer has been
- 3 successfully completed.